

### **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action, dated October 20, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Applicant submits that the references of record whether considered alone or in combination fail to either teach or suggest Applicant's presently claimed invention.

Applicant has amended the specification and figure 8 to explicitly point out the elements of the harness attachment and the independent pet harness. The same elements were present although unnumbered in the original figures and implicitly present in the specification. Applicants have merely explicitly set forth the elements to clearly point out the invention. Consequently, no new matter has been added.

Applicant has withdrawn independent claim 1 and added new claim 20. In addition, Applicant has amended claims 5, 11, 18 and 19 to more clearly define the invention. All the claims now specifically define the harness attachment and its relationship to any independent pet harness that is separate from the pet accessory of the present invention. All the claims specifically recite, in pertinent part, a harness attachment on a bottom side of said pack, wherein said harness attachment comprises a first element and a second element to receive a harness strap of an independent, separate pet harness between said first and second elements; and further wherein said first element of said harness attachment is placed over said harness strap and said second element of said harness attachment is attached to said first element to form a substantially tubular receiver to receive said harness strap and to allow said harness attachment to inhibit substantial lateral movement of said pack across said harness while allowing some movement along a length of said harness. Support for these structural claim recitations is found in figures 8 and 9 as well as in the corresponding discussions on page 6.

Specifically, see the last paragraph on page 6, beginning at line 24, in the specification for the corresponding description of figure 8.

The present invention is far superior to the present dog pack and coat systems which incorporate their own limited harness elements such as dorsal and ventral straps. Furthermore, the present claim language clearly distinguishes the harness attachment from the stitching of existing systems. Specifically, the present invention describes that the harness attachment comprises two elements which may be attached to form a substantially tubular receiver to receive a harness strap of the pet harness. Furthermore, the claims further explicitly recite the inhibition of lateral movement which is inherently present in such prior systems. There is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever concerning the use of such a set of pet interchangeable accessories which simply and securely attach, via a novel harness attachment, to currently available pet harnesses in the prior art.

The references of record fail to teach or suggest these advances in the art. Kerrigan, U.S. Patent No. 6,571,745, is directed to a dog pack harness comprising a base member with pockets, a ventral strap, a slidable collar attachment, and a dorsal strap which is used to secure the collar attachment to the base member. See Col. 2, lines 30-68 and Col. 3, lines 26-28. Consequently, Kerrigan discloses a pack which doubles as a harness. See Col. 1, lines 40-51. On the other hand, the present invention incorporates a harness attachment which securely attaches the pack to any independent commercially available pet harness system. This is advantageous because existing pet harness systems can be easily placed on a pet, and then the pack, coat or accessory can be attached to that harness. Conversely, prior art pack such as the cited Kerrigan pack are difficult to attach because they are bulky and require an owner to secure several strap against the pet while a pet remains stationary throughout the

entire process. The present invention advantageously provides pet accessories which may be simply and quickly attached and secured to existing independent pet harnesses which can be more easily placed on a pet. Moreover, the present invention is directed to accessories which may be quickly interchanged as desired. Importantly, the accessories can move with or over the pet in only a longitudinal direction. Therefore, the Kerrigan reference neither teaches or suggests the present invention.

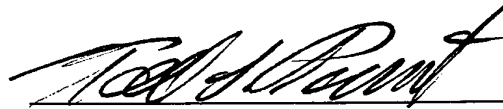
Caditz, U.S. Patent No. 5,996,537, also describes a bulky and complex canine coat for protecting canines from harmful objects and various weather elements. See generally the Abstract. In Caditz, the coat comprises a belly portion with a forward chest end and sufficient amount of material for protecting chest and lower neck, and a mid and rear abdominal end shape to cover a dog's abdomen. See Column 2, lines 44-48. Three securing straps are permanently attached to the forward end of a first side portion of the cover. See Col. 2, lines 50-55. The straps attach to the longitudinal center of the cover by a permanently attached strip. See Column 2, lines 65-68 and Col. 3, lines 1-3. Nonetheless, Caditz does not disclose a pet accessory with a harness attachment which advantageously attaches to independent pet harnesses. Moreover, Caditz simply does not disclose pet accessories which may be quickly and efficiently interchanged while the pet harness remains attached to the pet. For example, the Caditz cover requires that a user must individually slide each of the dog's front legs through a hole in the belly portion and thereafter individually attach and secure the several strap assemblies to secure the cover to the canine. The references of record fail to teach or suggest the present invention.

Appl. No. 10/677,571  
Amdt. Dated January 20, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Reg. #26,494)

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Todd S. Parkhurst  
**HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLC**  
131 S. Dearborn, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Tel: (312) 263-3600  
**Attorney for Applicant**

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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 8. This sheet, which includes Fig. 7 and 8, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 7 and 8. In Fig. 8, previously omitted labels 33(a) and 33(b) have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail on January 20, 2005 in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

  
Attorney for Applicants

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